

Message Text

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21

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R 282100Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APER, AFSI, UR

SUBJECT: ADVANCED SOVIET AREA/LANGUAGE STUDIES PROGRAM

REF: MOSCOW 5791

1. DEPT AGREES WITH EMBASSY ON REASONS AND NECESSITY FOR MORE EFFECTIVE ADVANCED TRAINING FOR LANGUAGE/AREA SPECIALISTS IN SOVIET AFFAIRS. WE AGREE THIS COULD BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY APPROPRIATE IN-COUNTRY TRAINING IN SOVIET FACILITIES FOR MATURE, YOUNG OFFICERS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED 3-3 LANGUAGE ABILITY, GOOD ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND SUITABLE STUDY PROJECT. AT THE SAME TIME, WE THINK IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SOVIETS ACCEPT SUCH CANDIDATES AS USG OFFICIALS WHOSE PURPOSE IN STUDYING IN USSR IS TO IMPROVE THEIR LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTRY, RATHER THAN AS GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO ALSO HAPPEN TO BE FSO/FSIO. WHILE NOT COMPLETELY COMPARABLE, WE SHOULD SEEK SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE MORE AKIN

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TO THEIR PRACTICE OF ASSIGNING OFFICERSTOEMBASSY WASH-

INGTON AND SMUN FOR TDY.

2. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD AVOID PUTTING FSO/FSIO'S UNDER IREX GRADUATE STUDENT PROGRAM, WHERE THEY WOULD BE TREATED NO DIFFERENTLY FROM US GRADUATE STUDENTS, EITHER BY SOVIETS OR BY IREX. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SOVIETS GRANT DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO USG OFFICIALS AND THAT THEY BE FORMALLY ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY OR CONGEN LENINGRAD. WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT EMBASSY SEES NO PROBLEMS IN THIS REGARD.

3. WE ENVISAGE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH MHE WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR FSO/FSIO'S AND FOR PROVIDING ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR OFFICERS AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, SPOUSES. IDEALLY, SUCH HOUSING WOULD BE MODERATELY BETTER THAN THAT CURRENTLY BEING PROVIDED TO IREX GRADUATE STUDENTS. USG WOULD PAY FOR SUCH HOUSING, TUITION - IF NECESSARY, AND OFFICERS WOULD BE PAID THEIR REGULAR SALARIES, WITHOUT ANY IREX-TYPE STIPEND/ALLOWANCE. DOMESTIC TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES AND VISA PROCEDURES WOULD BE THE SAME AS FOR REGULAR EMBASSY PERSONNEL RATHER THAN THOSE CURRENTLY APPLICABLE TO IREX GRADUATE STUDENTS.

4. IN SUGGESTING FOREGOING ARRANGEMENTS, WE DO NOT WISH TO ADD TO EMBASSY'S BURDENS, EITHER WITH MFA OR MHE. AT SAME TIME, WE THINK IT ESSENTIAL THAT FSO/FSIO'S BE SEEN BY MHE AND MFA AS DIFFERENT FROM IREX GRAD STUDENTS AND FOR WHOM EMBASSY WOULD GO TO BAT - IF NECESSARY - IN MANNER DIFFERENT FROM WHICH IT AND IREX SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENTS. IF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT, WE WOULD SELECT FSO/FSIO'S WHO WOULD CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE THEY HAVE EMBASSY SUPPORT, THEY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SPEND FULL TIME PURSUING ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND IMMERSING THEMSELVES IN UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT.

5. IF THIS APPROACH PROVES IMPRACTICAL, DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO RECONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF IREX SPONSORSHIP.

6. UNLESS EMBASSY HAS RESERVATIONS, THIS APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE TO MFA AND MHE. SHOULD ISSUE OF RECIPROCITY ARISE EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE THAT WE ARE READY TO DISCUSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUE BUT ON "SENDING STATE PAYS ALL COSTS" BASIS. INGERSOLL

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